

1 CLAIMS:

2 1. A phase shifter comprising:

3 a first power divider configured to receive a signal and provide
4 plural quadrature components of the signal;

5 plural mixers coupled with the first power divider and configured
6 to scale the quadrature components using a phase shift angle; and

7 a second power divider coupled with the mixers and configured
8 to combine the scaled quadrature components to shift the phase angle
9 of the input signal by the phase shift angle.

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11 2. The phase shifter according to claim 1 wherein the first
12 power divider comprises a ninety degree power divider configured to
13 provide the signal into a sine component and a cosine component...

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15 3. The phase shifter according to claim 1 further comprising
16 a storage device configured to store plural sine values and plural cosine
17 values and to output a sine value and a cosine value individually
18 corresponding to the phase shift angle.

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20 4. The phase shifter according to claim 1 further comprising
21 a storage device configured to store a sine value and a cosine value
22 individually corresponding to the phase shift angle.

1 5. The phase shifter according to claim 4 wherein the mixers
2 are coupled with the storage device and individually configured to
3 multiply one of the quadrature components by one of the sine value
4 and the cosine value.

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6 6. The phase shifter according to claim 1 wherein the second
7 power divider comprises a zero degree power divider configured to add
8 the scaled quadrature components.

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10 7. A phase shifter comprising:
11 a first input configured to receive a signal having a phase angle;
12 a second input configured to receive a phase shift angle;
13 a first power divider coupled with the first input and configured
14 to provide the signal into a first component and a second component;
15 a first mixer coupled with the first power divider and the second
16 input and configured to scale the first component using the phase shift
17 angle;
18 a second mixer coupled with the first power divider and the
19 second input and configured to scale the second component using the
20 phase shift angle; and
21 a second power divider coupled with the first mixer and the
22 second mixer and configured to combine the first scaled component and
23 the second scaled component to shift the phase angle of the input
24 signal by the phase shift angle.

1 8. The phase shifter according to claim 7 wherein the first
2 power divider comprises a ninety degree power divider configured to
3 provide the signal into quadrature components.

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5 9. The phase shifter according to claim 7 wherein the first
6 power divider is configured to provide the signal into a sine component
7 and a cosine component.

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9 10. The phase shifter according to claim 7 further comprising
10 a storage device coupled with the second input and being configured to
11 store plural sine values and plural cosine values and output a sine
12 value and a cosine value individually corresponding to the phase shift
13 angle.

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15 11. The phase shifter according to claim 7 further comprising
16 a storage device configured to store a sine value and a cosine value
17 individually corresponding to the phase shift angle.

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19 12. The phase shifter according to claim 11 wherein the mixers
20 are coupled with the storage device and individually configured to
21 multiply one of the first and second components by one of the sine
22 value and the cosine value.

1 13. The phase shifter according to claim 7 wherein the second
2 power divider comprises a zero degree power divider configured to add
3 the first scaled component and the second scaled component.

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5 14. An interrogator of a backscatter communication system
6 comprising:

7 a transmitter configured to output a local continuous wave signal
8 and a radio frequency continuous wave signal; and

9 a receiver configured to receive the local continuous wave signal
10 and a modulated radio frequency continuous wave signal, the receiver
11 including:

12 a phase shifter configured to adjust a phase angle of the
13 local continuous wave signal by a phase shift angle, the phase shifter
14 including a first power divider configured to provide a first component
15 and a second component of the local continuous wave signal, plural
16 mixers configured to scale the first component and the second
17 component using the phase shift angle, and a second power divider
18 configured to combine the scaled first component and the scaled second
19 component to provide an adjusted continuous wave signal; and

20 a coupler configured to combine the adjusted continuous
21 wave signal and the modulated radio frequency continuous wave signal.

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1 15. The interrogator according to claim 14 wherein the first
2 power divider is configured to provide the signal into quadrature
3 components.

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5 16. The interrogator according to claim 14 wherein the first
6 power divider comprises a ninety degree power divider configured to
7 provide the signal into a sine component and a cosine component.

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9 17. The interrogator according to claim 14 further comprising a
10 storage device configured to store plural sine values and plural cosine
11 values and output a sine value and a cosine value individually
12 corresponding to the phase shift angle.

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14 18. The interrogator according to claim 14 further comprising a
15 storage device configured to store a sine value and a cosine value
16 individually corresponding to the phase shift angle.

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18 19. The interrogator according to claim 18 wherein the mixers
19 are coupled with the storage device and individually configured to
20 multiply one of the first and second components by one of the sine
21 value and the cosine value.

1 20. The interrogator according to claim 14 wherein the second
2 power divider comprises a zero degree power divider configured to add
3 the scaled first component and the scaled second component.

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5 21. A phase shifter comprising:

6 a first input configured to receive a signal having a phase angle;

7 a second input configured to receive a phase shift angle;

8 a storage device configured to receive the phase shift angle, to
9 store plural sine values and plural cosine values, and to output the sine
10 value and cosine value which correspond to the phase shift angle;

11 a ninety degree power divider coupled with the first input and
12 configured to provide the signal into a sine component and a cosine
13 component;

14 a first mixer coupled with the ninety degree power divider and
15 the storage device and configured to multiply the sine component of the
16 signal by the sine value corresponding to the phase shift angle;

17 a second mixer coupled with the ninety degree power divider and
18 the storage device and configured to multiply the cosine component of
19 the signal by the cosine value corresponding to the phase shift angle;
20 and

21 a zero degree power divider coupled with the first mixer and the
22 second mixer and configured to add the sine component of the signal
23 and the cosine component of the signal to shift the phase angle of the
24 signal by the phase shift angle.

1 22. A method of shifting a phase angle of a signal comprising:
2 providing a signal having a phase angle;
3 providing a phase shift angle;
4 providing the signal into a first component and a second
5 component;
6 scaling the first component using the phase shift angle;
7 scaling the second component using the phase shift angle;
8 combining the first component and the second component after the
9 scalings to shift the phase angle of the signal by the phase shift angle.
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11 23. The method according to claim 22 wherein the providing the
12 signal into a first component and a second component comprises
13 providing the signal into quadrature components.
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15 24. The method according to claim 22 wherein the providing the
16 signal into a first component and a second component comprises
17 providing the signal into a sine component and a cosine component.
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19 25. The method according to claim 22 further comprising:
20 storing a plurality of sine values and cosine values; and
21 outputting one sine value and one cosine value individually
22 corresponding to the phase shift angle.
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1 26. The method according to claim 22 further comprising storing
2 a sine value and a cosine value individually corresponding to the phase
3 shift angle.

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5 27. The method according to claim 26 wherein the scalings
6 individually comprise multiplying one of the first component and the
7 second component by one of the sine value and the cosine value.

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9 28. The method according to claim 22 wherein the combining
10 comprises adding the scaled first component and the scaled second
11 component.

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13 29. A method of shifting the phase angle of a signal comprising:
14 providing a signal having a phase angle;
15 providing a phase shift angle;
16 providing the signal into a sine component and a cosine
17 component;

18 multiplying the sine component by a sine value corresponding to
19 the phase shift angle;

20 multiplying the cosine component by a cosine value corresponding
21 to the phase shift angle; and

22 adding the sine component and the cosine component after the
23 multipliyings to shift the phase angle of the signal by the phase shift
24 angle.

1 30. The method according to claim 29 further comprising storing
2 a plurality of sine values and cosine values and outputting a sine value
3 and a cosine value individually corresponding to the phase shift angle.

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5 31. The method according to claim 29 wherein the providing the
6 signal into a sine component and a cosine component comprises
7 providing using a ninety degree power divider.

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9 32. The method according to claim 29 wherein the multiplyings
10 individually comprise multiplying using a mixer.

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12 33. The method according to claim 29 wherein the combining
13 comprises adding the scaled first component and the scaled second
14 component.

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16 34. The method according to claim 29 wherein the adding
17 comprises adding using a zero degree power divider.

1 35. A method of operating a coherent interrogator of a
2 backscatter communication system comprising:

3 outputting a radio frequency continuous wave signal;

4 providing a local continuous wave signal;

5 receiving a modulated continuous wave signal;

6 providing a phase shift angle;

7 adjusting the phase of the local continuous wave signal using the
8 phase shift angle to provide an adjusted continuous wave signal, the
9 adjusting including:

10 providing the local continuous wave signal into a first
11 component and a second component;

12 scaling the first component using the phase shift angle;

13 scaling the second component using the phase shift angle;

14 and

15 combining the first component and the second component
16 after the scalings to shift the phase angle of the local continuous wave
17 signal by the phase shift angle; and

18 combining the adjusted continuous wave signal and the modulated
19 continuous wave signal.

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21 36. The method according to claim 35 wherein the providing the
22 signal into a first component and a second component comprises
23 providing the signal into quadrature components.
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1 37. The method according to claim 35 wherein the providing the
2 signal into a first component and a second component comprises
3 providing the signal into a sine component and a cosine component.
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5 38. The method according to claim 35 further comprising storing
6 a plurality of sine values and cosine values and outputting a sine value
7 and a cosine value individually corresponding to the phase shift angle.
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9 39. The method according to claim 35 further comprising storing
10 a sine value and a cosine value individually corresponding to the phase
11 shift angle.
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13 40. The method according to claim 39 wherein the scalings
14 individually comprise multiplying one of the first component and the
15 second component by one of the sine value and the cosine value.
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17 41. The method according to claim 35 wherein the combining
18 comprises adding the scaled first component and the scaled second
19 component.
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